RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

September, 1994

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

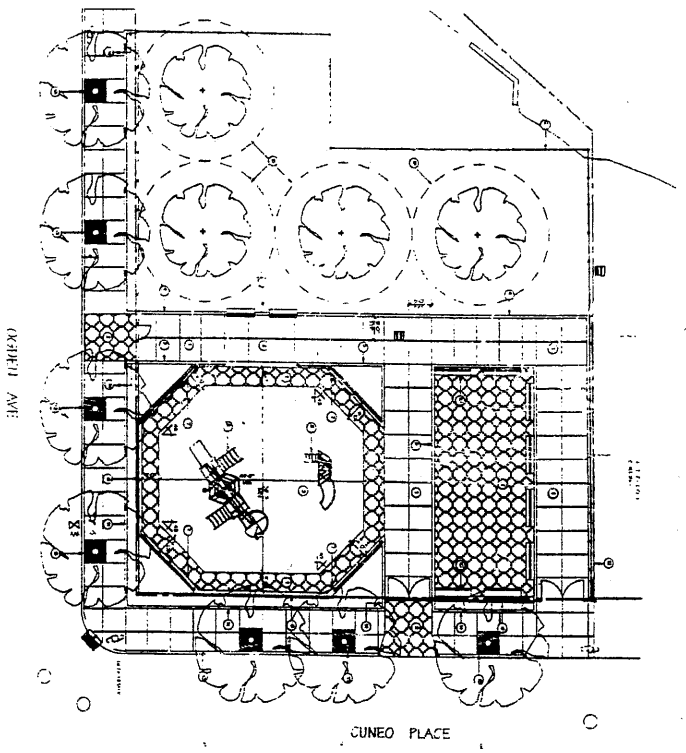
RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

UPDATE: Cuneo Place Park

On July 28th, a meeting was held at City Hall regarding the Cuneo Place Park. In attendance were Christopher Strehan of the City's Bureau of Architecture, Council President Tom DeGise, Councilperson Nancy Gaynor of Ward "C", Tom Hart, Director of the City's Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Harry Schwartz of Christ Hospital and Jean Hartman and Greg Brickey representing Riverview Neighborhood Association.

The readiness of the Park project for bidding and construction was discussed. Architect Chris Strehan stated that the project was complete, except for lighting. After a discussion wherein it was pointed out that sports lighting already existed at the site (overhead lighting fixtures attached to light poles along the perimeter of the Park), it was determined that the only necessary additional lighting would be an additional sports lighting fixture on the southwest corner of the proposed site. It was felt that this proposal would deal with the neighborhood's chief concern of security after dark, as well as serve to move the project along, as any other lighting proposal would probably incur lengthy delays.

(continued on page 3)



In Memory of Ted Conrad

I shall grow old, but never lose life's zest,
because the road's last turn will be the best.

Ted Conrad died peacefully on August 19th at 1:30 in the morning - surrounded by his family. He was a great man, brimming with ideas - filled with hope and driven by a desire to improve his fellow man's quality of life. Much has been written about his accomplishments as an innovative architectural modelbuilder designing much of the New York City skyline and as a civic activist saving among other local historic treaures, the Hudson County Courthouse and the Loew's Theatre. He was a constant presence in City Hall and the Council Chambers - arguing, demanding and proposing - raising issues as far ranging as tax reform to saving the environment. He seemed to have an articulate, researched opinion about every subject - which he enjoyed debating with whomever he encountered.

I knew Ted Conrad as a friend and a mentor. He was a man who taught me the value of a neighborhood and the importance of fighting to preserve its best qualities and to improve its lesser elements. He inspired in me the tenacity to demand from residents, landlords, business owners and city officials that they have a responsibility for maintaining and improving the quality of life in our community. Although there were many years between us, we was able to communicate together as peers and planners in many a project. He was a strict teacher who demanded the best from everyone who worked with us. He was relentless and

(continued on page 3)

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING:

Tuesday, September 13 AT 7:15 PM

AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- **Council President Tom DeGise &**
- **Ward C Councilperson Nancy Gaynor**

Saturday, September 17: Drug Awareness Day

Saturday, October 1: RNA Fall Festival & Flea Market

THE RNA FALL FEST & FLEA MARKET

RNA is sponsoring a special event on **Saturday, October 1st in Riverview-Fisk Park.** We will hold a traditional open-air flea market. In addition, multi-ethnic food will be sold. RNA will also present live entertainment performed by local residents in the Park pavilion. The Fest will be held between **10 am to 4 pm.** The raindate is Saturday, October 8th.

The funds raised will be used by the Park Committee to purchase plants and shrubs to be planted in Riverview-Fisk Park. Landscaping materials will also be purchased to maintain the flower gardens created in the Park this spring.

RNA has decided to invite professional food vendors to participate in this event. RNA hopes to present a variety of exotic culinary delicacies representing our multi-ethnic community. Food vendors interested in participating, should contact Fest chairperson, Clare Archer at 792-3945.

RNA is also planning live entertainment at the for this event. There will be music performed by local friends, neighbors and musicians and original readings by local writers. SCARPA MAGIC will put on a wonderful magic show for kids and grownups alike at 11 AM. RNA is looking for musicians (a singer, a drummer, and a guitarist) who would be willing to perform cover tunes for one hour. In addition, we are also looking for local talent who would like to read their original compositions in the Park.

As usual, RNA will provide **SPACE ONLY** for the flea market merchants and sellers. Position of spaces on the day of the flea market will be on a first come, first serve basis. If you are a RNA member you can reserve a space for $10.00. Non-members can reserve space for $17.00. (See attached application.) ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 25TH.

Come join us in Riverview-Fisk Park on Saturday, OCTOBER 1st to enjoy a lovely autumn day in your own community. Buy from our vendors and sample all the foods! Remember, your support will help generate funds for our community gardens!

☞ *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!*

It takes a lot of work to organize and run this event. You can help by volunteering to:

--PERFORM MUSIC OR READINGS
--PUBLICIZE THE FLEA MARKET
--CLEAN-UP THE PARK BEFORE & AFTER EVENT

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
FALL FLEA MARKET FEST
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1,1994
TIME: 10 AM TO 4 PM

LOCATION: RIVERVIEW-FISK PARK (OGDEN AVENUE AND GRIFFITH STREET)

(RAINDATE OCT. 8TH)

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone No.:_____

PRICES FOR SPACE ONLY:

1) RNA MEMBERS: **$10.00**
2) NON-MEMBERS: **$17.00**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 792-3945

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature :_____

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
Cut out this application and send to **Clare Archer, 230 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307**
Attn: Flea Market

Ted Conrad (continued from page 1)

obsessed with any project or problem that he tackled until he was able to resolve it to his satisfaction. Yet he was always willing to accept input and criticism to improve the current project he was engaged in. He was both a master and a student - simultaneously teaching and learning until the very end of his life.

Ted was one of the original members of Riverview Neighborhood Association when it first started holding monthly meetings in the fall of 1984. He acted as an advisor - guiding the new organization through its initial stages - with his experience of working in other civic groups. He was always prompting RNA to take stands on important issues in our neighborhood, city, county and state. He was a prime mover in our Planning and Development Committee, that was responsible for meeting, negotiating and overseeing development projects in our community during the mid -1980s.

A lot of Ted's work for the community was directed at Riverview-Fisk Park. For many years, he was personally involved in maintaining, improving and even protecting our glorious Park. He called the Park "the most beautiful spot in the Heights" and "the best vantage point to view the Hudson River and the New York City skyline."

Ted was always promoting our neighborhood. He loved to show drawings and photographs of the old Washington Village area and recall how wonderful life was. He could never understand how residents did not appreciate the historical and cultural value of our community. He was amazed that nobody realized how incredible our community was - sitting majestically atop the Palisade cliffs. Many a time, I would sit with Ted in his office watching the ships traveling on the Hudson and discussing a problem that confronted our neighborhood.

I could continue to write about Ted Conrad and the knowledge and wisdom he imparted to me. But it is enough to say that although Ted Conrad is gone - he will not be forgotten. His work will be carried on by his students, family and friends. And that is the greatest accomplishment any person could hope for. That his work and memory will live on long after he is gone.

Good bye, dear friend. I shall miss you but I promise to carry on your work.

Vito Brunetti

(Anyone who would like to share some memory or story about Ted or just express their feelings, please submit your material to RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue for publication in the October newsletter.)

Park Update (continued from page 1)

Council President DeGise requested that anyone who wished to voice their opinion about the proposed lighting do so at the September RNA meeting.

The construction time schedule was then discussed. Much of the work required is landscaping and it appears that unless the bidding process was complete prior to October, work would probably not begin until the following spring.

Security was again discussed since it is the neighborhood's primary concern. It was made abundantly clear that the Park would be closed and locked at night. Initially, it appeared Christ Hospital might be withdrawing its offer to open and close the Park, but after discussion, Mr. Schwartz said he would attempt to, at least, get a commitment to close the Park and we could discuss their further involvement in the future. In addition, the possibility of having the police close the Park for at least the first month was raised and will be discussed with police Captain Kane of the North District.

Greg Brickey suggested that if the City sought neighborhood involvement in maintaining the Park and planting gardens - a water source would be necessary. This suggestion was duly noted, although not yet approved.

Council President DeGise also requested biographical information regarding Janet Moore for the Council resolution for the Park's dedication.

Jean Hartmann

Meeting Minutes

(The following is a condensed version of the meeting minutes for the summer sessions of RNA during June, July, and August. They are in outline format.)

JUNE 14, 1994:

1) Scheduled speaker Mayor Bret Schundler could not make the meeting.
2) Motions made and approved to hold summer meetings (July & August), and to invite Mayor Schundler to speak at the July 12 meeting.
3) Discussion of June 4th Flea Market. Proceeds: $1752; costs: $485 and profit: $ 1267.
4) Police Beat (Officers Lancellotti and Curtis):
   a) Police Dept. will be at its lowest staffing in history this summer because of the unexpectedly high number of officers taking advantage of the early retirement offer and
   b) There will be a class of 24 police cadets graduating in June; the next class will graduate in November, 1994.
5) The Park Committee reported on activities and expenditures (flowers and wire fencing, and the need for a Park budget. Reimbursement of $85 for prior expenditures approved.
6) Barbara Petrick of Sgt. Anthony's Neighborhood Association gave an update on Christ Hospital garage proposal before the Planning Board;
7) Announcement of the new RNA lending library to be kept by Ernie Quintero.
8) Guest Speaker, Tom Hart, Director of the Dept. of Recreation and Cultural Affairs spoke about the new municipal agency, which will include Recreational Facilities, Forestry, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs. Hart touched on several projects, with the common theme that the Dept's role is changing from "doer" to "facilitator", emphasizing community volunteerism:
   a) Dept is seeking to partner with community-based non-profit organizations for the maintenance and development of neighborhood parks;
   b) The establishment of "Library Corners", where books from closing library branches are moved

to a space provided and maintained by the local community;

c) Arrangements in two other municipal parks where Community Service Police lock up ball courts at night and Parks Division opens them in the mornings; and

d) Brief mention of other City programs including the Mayor's Greening project for planting trees, Neighborhood Improvement Districts, and the Mayor's Teenage Volunteers.

9) There was discussion of a "Drug Awareness Day" arranged by local resident, Julio Romero to be held on June 18th in Riverview-Fisk Park. A discussion among Julio Romero, Tom Hart and RNA executives resulted in the postponement of the event till the fall (September 17th).

JULY 12, 1994:

1) Park Committee reported that 65 trees and shrubs had been provided by the Parks Division and the Incinerator Authority for Riverview-Fisk Park; the Committee also asked for volunteers to help plant these plants.

2) Motion to set aside $250 for Park expenses (plants and fencing) was approved; this money will be segregated from RNA general funds with private donations specifically for the Park to be added to this fund; prior money spent on the Park will be subtracted from the fund.

3) Motion approved to donate $100 to the Sgt Anthony Neighborhood Association legal fund for appealing the Christ Hospital garage project (which was approved by the Planning Board).

4) Motion approved to contribute up to $100 for exercise equipment for the North District Police Station's newly renovated exercise gym.

5) Police Beat (Officers Lancellotti and Curtis):

a) the A&P "brick" burglar was caught breaking through the rear wall of the Palisade Avenue store with a hammer. He will be charged with all the prior burglaries to store;

b) a man at the June Park Concert was removed from the area without incident: he was reported to have a gun and was intoxicated; the gun turned out to be a toy and the man was subsequently released to his family;

c) there was a mugging of a local resident that occurred on Ogden Avenue, off of Griffith Street at noon time;

d) there were several break-ins, including one building on Ogden Avenue that was hit twice within two weeks;

e) a report of a group of kids congregating near Cuneo Place and Palisade Avenue in the mornings suspected of staking out houses for burglary targets.

6) Guest Speaker, Mayor Bret Schundler gave a presentation of the state of the City, including:

a) that the City will lay off 135 municipal workers in "internal support" positions; re-employment help will be provided to these workers;

b) that the City is committed to replacing each early retiree from the Police Dept. and assigning more officers street patrolling as part of the Community Service Program; the Dept. should be at "full force" in November, 1994 when the next class of cadets will graduate;

c) proposals for two municipal programs:

*) paid "block watches" where trained civilians, equipped only with radios, will address local petty crime;

*) paid clean-up crews to maintain public areas in the local communities;

*) hiring of both programs will be locally controlled by neighborhood not-for-profit organizations;

*) "neighborhoods" will be defined by the 31 election districts; funding will be according to population, determined by "census" of registered voters;

*) "incremental maintenance fee" to provide citizen-funding at level of one fifth of costs;

*) City will screen vendors for qualifications and then hold "conventions" where vendors will compete for each neighborhood's business - for one year contracts.

d) the Mayor's three point program for educational reform legislation :

*) giving teachers power to design and run "magnet" programs within the public schools, including the authority to remove students who do not comply with stated rules,

*) allowing parents to select among these "magnet" programs, and

*) making the teachers accountable for the results, as measured by student exam scores; unsuccessful programs will be eliminated.

7) Several issues were raised during the following question and answer session with the Mayor, including: kids using fire hydrants on hot summer days, potholes, police on bicycles, alternative locations for the proposed high school in the Heights, street cleaning hours near Christ Hospital, the Litter Patrol, trash cans on Palisade Avenue, dumping, Fire Department staffing, youth violence, arts in Jersey City. (A list of these issues requiring action or answers was sent to the Mayor that week.)

AUGUST 9, 1994:

1) Julio Romero announced his resheduled "Drug Awareness Day" in Riverview-Fisk Park for Saturday, September 17th (raindate: September 24th) and asked for volunteers.

2) Cuneo Park architectural plans are complete and will be published in the September newsletter. A vote will be taken at the September meeting concerning the lighting for the Park.

3) Two proposals were made to be voted on at the September meeting:

a) a 60 day limit on submittal of receipts for RNA expenditures and

b) the scheduling of two Incinerator Authority dumpsters four times a year on alternate side streets in RNA community.

4) Police Beat (Officers Lancellotti and Curtis): discussed two drug arrests, dumping on Holland Street and problem of commercial vehicles parking on Ogden Avenue.
5) The Park Committee outlined projects planned for Riverview-Fisk Park in the fall:
   a) purchase and plant evergreen trees and
   b) a community garden at the south end of Park.
6) RNA approved the motion to hold a flea market in the fall to benefit the Park fund:
   a) a motion was approved to allow professional food vendors at event and
   b) another motion was approved to limit the number of food vendors to ten or less (a motion to limit the number to five or less was denied).
7) Guest Speakers, Tony Scarpa of SDS Bicycle Shop (351 Palisade Avenue) and Al Preciado, a Local artist, spoke about an idea to put a mural on the side of the bicycle shop. The project, in the early planning stage, was brought before RNA to inform and get community feedback. When a design is chosen, it will be presented to RNA before work starts, to insure community support. Al Preciado gave a slide presentation showing different styles of mural painting from across the country, including Jersey City projects.

NEW RNA BUSINESS

In August, the RNA Executive Committee proposed two motions to be voted on at the September meeting.

The first motion would place a 60-day limit on submittal of all expenditure receipts to be reimbursed by RNA . The reason for this limit is that with the increase of expenses, RNA needs to be able to budget its resources and project what funds will be available for future plans. Procedurally, when a receipt is presented to RNA for payment, it must be approved by the membership either before or after the purchase. Therefore, it is also necessary to clarify that members should not make any purchases for RNA without the express knowledge of the Executive Committee.

The second motion concerns the scheduling of community dumpsters placed in the neighborhood by the Incinerator Authority. The motion would authorize the scheduling of two dumpsters four times a year on alternate side streets between Palisade and Ogden Avenues. At present, the arrangement is for the Incinerator Authority to place four dumpsters once a year. The change is being prompted by the increased demand for large-scale garbage removal by local residents throughout the year.

In reference to the use of the dumpsters by the community, the Incinerator Authority has established the following criteria:

a) this service is provided for Jersey City properties only,
b) this service is for community participation only and not for individual use,
c) this service is provided for general clean-up of properties only and not for improvements,
d) this service is not intended for organizations engaged in construction repair or demolition work, and
e) this service is for non-profit organizations only and not for realtors, contractors, developers or any other related businesses.

Community Updates

Drug Awareness Day

Once again, the community is invited to a day of music, fun and information. On **Saturday, September 17, 1994, Drug Awareness Day** will be held in **Riverview-Fisk Park from 12 Noon to 6 PM**. (Raindate: September 24, 1994) Aaries Inc. and concerned members of the neighborhood will provide information on the perils of addiction, HIV and other health problems facing the Heights community. The goal of this event is to work together for the benefit of our teenagers and adults by uniting our efforts for the good of all. This event is in its fourth year and it is becoming a vital part of our neighborhood. The following is a schedule of events for the day:

12-12:30: Welcome from all the agencies
1-2: Opening speaker, council and program representatives
2-3: Latin Band
3:30-4: Speakers from Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous
4-5:30: Local entertainers performing music and songs
5:30-6: Closing Remarks

We welcome new ideas and volunteers that will encourage and expand this activity in any way. For more information, please contact **Julio Romero at 858-1958** (during the day) and **963-5901** (at night). We wish to thank RNA, Aaries Inc., and the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs for supporting this worthy cause.

Riverview-Fisk Park

People are saying that Riverview-Fisk Park is looking better than it has in years. There are new flower gardens, shrubs, and even a new bocci ball court is being completed. A lot of the credit for this change goes to the RNA Park Committee. This year the Park Committee is not just pulling weeds. They are making changes that will affect the use of the Park for years to come.

The change in the character of the Park has been dramatic this summer. There is less antisocial behavior and those few who misbehave are more likely to be challenged by other park users. While there continues to be be some vandalization of the garden fences, not a single flower or shrub has been destroyed. This in itself indicates the support that our effort has in the neighborhood.

So far this year, the Park Committee has planted 65 bushes, including upright junipers. lilacs, spirea, azaleas, and rhododendrons. Planted in the center garden are an assortment of perennial flowers, including

moonbeam coreopsis, coral bells, purple loosestrife and three rose bushes donated by Dorothy and Yogi Rosario. There are also two beds of annual flowers one of which includes mountain laurel.

In order to finance more park improvements for this year, the Park Committee is organizing a flea market to take place on October 1st. Money from this event will be used to purchase evergreen hedges for the Park. Money will also be used to pay for fencing for the community garden planned for next spring. This garden will be modelled after the large community garden across the street from the Madison Park in Hoboken. Our garden will be about 75 X 25 feet and will be located across Ogden Avenue from the basketball court. This garden will be open to anyone who wishes to grow flowers or vegetables. Some of the landscaping that will surround the fenced-in garden has already been planted.

The Park committee would like to thank Tom Hart and Rodney Hadley for mobilizing the Parks Division behind RNA. Also, thanks to Tom Killeen of the Incinerator Authority for supplying the evergreens and shrubs. Kevin Sluka, the new Director of the Department of Public Works has been contacted to arrange for RNA to use water from the fire hydrant in the Park.

Many thanks to the children who participated as volunteers this summer, especially Rachel, Cynthia, Mike, Boom-Boom, Timothy, Joseph and Kendall. Appreciation should also go to the adult gardeners, including Dorothy, Yogi, Grace, Clare, Suzanne, Ernie and Dave whose efforts proved the naysayers wrong.

Our goal is to make Riverview-Fisk Park the safest and most beautiful park in Jersey City. With the continued support of our local community and the municipal government, we can achieve this goal over the coming year.

Greg Brickey

(On August 16th, RNA had a conversation with Parks Division Director Rodney Hadley. The following list is the status of the requests for maintenance and improvements in Riverview-Fisk Park:

a) the completion of the pruning and removal of trees and shrubs along the cliff - to enhance the skyline view - will occur this fall (the area to be cut is behind the basketball court to the deadend on Griffith Street,
b) the replacement of the dead trees along the curbs of Palisade and Ogden Avenues with new trees will occur in October, 1994,
c) the dead tree at the southern end of the Park off of Palisade and Griffith Street will be cut down by the end of August, 1994,
d) the overall pruning of the trees to maximize the internal Park lighting will be done during the fall,
e) the two dead tree stumps in the children's playground will be removed and replaced with brickwork,
f) the removal of the swing set structure in the southern part of the Park off Ogden and Griffith Street will occur this fall,
g) the completion of the bocci ball court will occur before the end of August and will include seating and removal of the overgrown bush along the eastside of the fencing,
h) the repair of the pavilion roof has been referred to Frank Corolli of Public Works (Rodney will "remind" them again of this work),
i) the installation of the brickwork in the tree plots along the eastern curb of the new sidewalk on Ogden Avenue has been halted by the Law Department (Rodney is trying to work this out with them)
j) water and electricity will be installed during the second stage of the Park's renovation (which is presently in the planning stage), and
k) new benches will be installed along the eastern side of the Park - off Ogden Avenue, overlooking the skyline during the fall.

POLICE BEAT:

This has been a busy summer for our local **Community Service Police Officers Andrew Lancellotti and John Curtis**. Their patrol efforts have been successful and the local criminal elements are uncomfortably aware of their presence.

The officers focused on quality of life crimes, including public drinking, urinating in public and loud music. The local areas that the two officers have concentrated on were the following:

1) drug dealing occurring along Franklin Street from Sherman to Ogden Avenue,
2) the illegal parking of overnight commercial vehicles and parking in fire zones at Cuneo Place and Ogden Avenue,
3) disorderly persons and public drinking on New York Avenue and Congress Street, and
4) the enforcement of the 10 PM curfew in Riverview-Fisk Park.

Sometimes, the officers were frustrated in their efforts when they were redeployed to other patrol areas because of this summer's manpower shortage in the City's Police Department.

Finally, Officers Lancellotti and Curtis request that any citizen that has a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity, should contact them at **547-5350** (to leave a message for them at the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (to leave a message on their voice mail). They usually respond to these messages on a daily basis. When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and a date and time of the message. All calls will be kept confidential.

LETTERS to the EDITORS

Summer Basketball

(The following is a letter from RNA member, Patrick Moore asking RNA to sponsor a local basketball program in Riverview-Fisk Park during the summer of 1995.)

This is a request for sponsorship. The Jersey City Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs is interested in forming partnerships with community

organizations to develop and promote recreational opportunities in our neighborhoods.

Among youth in this area, basketball is one of the more popular recreational activities. Simply put, the game of basketball allows the participants to focus their time and their energies in a well-designated area. In addition, the game, when properly supervised, helps youth to develop a "team spirit." Learning to see beyond one own's self-interests, and playing by the rules are important lessons in the life of individuals and the community.

The Recreation Department can administer a summer basketball league in Riverview-Fisk Park, but it will only happen if and when a sponsoring organization - such as RNA - invites the Rec. Dept. to make it happen.

I am seeking the support of the Riverview Neighborhood Association membership in facilitating the development and implementation of a summer basketball program in Riverview-Fisk Park to begin during the next summer in 1995.

I am also looking for a few volunteers who are interested in coaching, sponsoring, and/or managing a team of local youth. The program is divided into two divisions. The first division is an evening basketball tournament which includes local youth - ages 16 to 25. Teams in the first division are expected to have a supervising adult or coach. Furthermore, participation in the first division also has a service commitment, in which a senior youth from each team spends time helping younger youth to develop their skills in the second division of the summer program which is limited to youth - ages 10 to 15.

I appreciate the opportunity to make this presentation, and I hope to have the occasion to publicly address and answer any questions or concerns you may have. For further information, please contact **Patrick Moore** at **792-9390**.

NO GOLF COURSE IN LIBERTY STATE PARK

(RNA sent the following letter to Gregory A. Marshall, Director of the Division of Parks and Forestry in New Jersey's Dept. of Environmental Protection & Energy.)

Riverview Neighborhood Association opposes the Liberty State Park Development Corporation's proposal for a 150 acre golf course to be built in Liberty State Park. Our organization instead supports the concept of urban parkland and open space on the order of New York City's Central Park.

Our group had discussed this issue during the previous year at monthly meetings on January 12 and May 11, 1993. On August 10, 1993 Riverview Neighborhood Association voted unanimously to oppose the golf course plan.

Open space is a precious commodity in Hudson County. We are one of the most populated regions in New Jersey, but we also have less open space than any other area in the state. The Hudson River waterfront, the last area to be developed, could have been an environmentally planned community of commercial and residential projects with large open spaces and public access to the waterfront. Instead the public has been practically shut out by private development. Liberty State Park therefore serves a double purpose: it is the last free access the public has to the waterfront and it is the largest piece of local land that can be dedicated to open space for all people.

Parkland is very important to our community because the center of our local neighborhood is Riverview-Fisk Park, a block wide municipal park located on the Palisades overlooking the Hudson River and the New York City skyline. Our group is dedicated to maintaining this elegant, pastoral open space for all residents to enjoy. This year we have created several community flower gardens and planted over 60 bushes and trees. We work very closely with Jersey City to maintain this park. On March 9, 1994, The City of Jersey City officially dedicated Riverview-Fisk Park to Theodore Conrad, RNA's Historical Advisor, for his many civic accomplishments, including his tireless efforts to preserve and maintain Riverview-Fisk Park.

RNA's other projects to preserve local open space include opposing Christ Hospital's parking lot and garage projects in order to save the Palisades from unnecessary development, the creation of a new neighborhood park at Cuneo Place and Ogden Avenue (which will be dedicated to a local activist, Janet Moore) and the future dedication of the open reservoir in the Jersey City Heights between Central and Summit Avenues as parkland. We also support the proposal to name Union City's pocket park on Mountain Road in honor of James S. Drago, a environmentalist and activist who devoted his life to preserving open space and beauty in our region. At a time when our region is being plagued by unnecessary development, the dedication of Liberty State Park as parkland and open space - without a golf course - is necessary to reinforce our commitment to improve the quality of life for all people.

Therefore, RNA joins the Coalition to Save Liberty State Park, the Sierra Club, the American Littoral Society, and the Weehawken Environment Committee in their opposition to the Liberty State Park Development Corporation's golf course plan.

[Anybody interested in writing individual, personal statements concerning this important issue, can send their written comments to:

Comments for Public Record
Liberty State Park Golf Course Decision
Department of Environmental Protection & Energy
Gregory A. Marshall, Director
Division of Parks and Forestry
CN 404
Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

Comments will be accepted until September 24, 1994. It is also recommended that a copy of your comments be sent to:

Governor Christine Whitman
Office of the Governor
CN -001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625.]

Please Recycle This Newsletter.

➡ Pass it on to a Neighbor. ⬆

Bulletin board

WELCOME

Congratulations to Susan, Russell and Eliot Pratt. A new member of their family, Joseph Russell Pratt was born on August 8, 1994. The baby and family are doing just fine. RNA welcomes a new member to our neighborhood!

Restaurant Reviews

MUNCHIES 329 Central Avenue 659-0555

Delicious, fresh, innovative and reasonably priced food served in a stylish and friendly atmosphere - **Munchies** cooks up the best food on Central Avenue. **Munchies** is the rarest of restaurants in this neighborhood - a classy little cafe and coffee bar, any one would only expect to find in Hoboken or across the Hudson.

The menu features a wide variety of home made baked goods and ice cream, a complete assortment of coffees and teas, and soups and salads prepared daily. Their big selection of sandwiches has something for everyone, whether its a classic deli sandwich or one that you can design yourself. **Munchies** also features a mini-grocery of specialty items and a choice of take out entries to make dinner easy.

Greg Brickey

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Ice Box Cake

This recipe is for a 9" X 5" X 2" pan but can be cut for a smaller recipe, using the small boxes of pudding. You can also use all vanilla or all chocolate if you prefer.

INGREDIENTS:

2 large boxes of chocolate pudding
2 large boxes of vanilla pudding
Milk
2 boxes of graham crackers

1) Cook each pudding separately according to instructions (do not use instant mix).
2) Alternate a layer of chocolate and vanilla pudding between layers of crackers until desired thickness.
3) When done, crumble some crackers to place on top for a finished cake.
4) Refrigerate cake till firm (1 1/2 to 2 hours).

SEPTEMBER

It's a long way from May to September,
Not really, but it is going so fast!
Here it is September,
and not a souvenir to be had,
and only a few shells left on the beach.
Children are going back to school and looking forward to another enjoyable season with the RNA and all their activities -
HAPPY FALL TO ALL!

Madeline Rea

Get Well Wishes to

Mrs. Marie Tuzzo and Frances Santoro.

MY EXPERIENCES: Summer's Gone

Now that the summer was on the way out, we had to prepare getting things ready for school, such as buying our books, pencils and mostly erasers. A lot of us were happy to get back to school as we saw different faces and new teachers.

We would miss the summer nights. And day trips to Coney Island where there were so many rides and side shows. Then there were the trips to Palisades Amusement Park where they had a salt water pool. We also missed the Sunday picnics to Northern Valley, where we would all bring something to eat.

Then there were days we would walk up to the 5th Street piers to see the boats or some guys diving into the Hudson from the piers to go swimming.

A lot of us worked in the Tootsie Roll factory, or we had jobs for the different stores on Washington Street. I will admit that whatever we did we enjoyed doing.

Jack F. Rea

Art Showings

Our own Greg Brickey has been very busy this summer. In addition to his gardening work in Riverview-Fisk Park, he has presented his original art work in several different exhibitions in Jersey City.

a) **GARDEN FRESH**, an exhibition of art in the Garden state, including an eclectic array of bold, energetic paintings hanging at an oblique angle from a twenty foot high ceiling: **August 18 - September 11, 1994, at Trans Hudson Gallery, 160 First Street, Jersey City (222-3030)** - gallery hours: Friday 2 -7 PM and Saturday & Sunday 11 AM - 6 PM or by appointment.

b) *GRAFFITI AND OTHER MURAL CONCEPTS*, an exhibit exploring graffiti and photo documentation of murals, including videos and mural proposals for Hudson County: **August 6 -31, 1994, at Grace Cathedral Gallery, corner of 2nd and Erie Street, Jersey City (792-4897)** - gallery hours: Saturdays, 10-3 PM and by appointment.

(If any local artists would like to advertise their upcoming shows or exhibitions, please submit the information at least one month in advance to RNA for publication in our newsletter.)

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITORS: Vito Brunetti, Russell Pratt
CONTRIBUTORS: Greg Brickey, Ted Conrad, Kathy Packard, Ernest Quintero, Jack Rea, Madeline Tuzzo Rea, Valerie Rea, Frances Santoro, Maria E. Tuzzo
CIRCULATION: Mrs. Tuzzo, Jack Rea
ART WORK: Raquel Sweeney , Russell Pratt

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ADVERTISERS

SERVING THE HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY SINCE 1890

STATE LISC. #6686

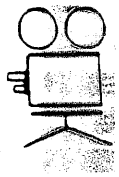
10% SENIOR CITIZEN DISC.

WERNER BROS., INC.

PLUMBING AND HEATING
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
INSTALLATIONS-ALTERATIONS-REPAIRS
LICENSE #6686
WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS
FOR REMOVAL OF LEAD AND CONTAMINANTS.

63 IRVING STREET
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07307
PHONE 659-4441

HOME VIDEO THEATRE



368 Palisades Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey
(201) 795-1990

Telephone (201) 864-7450

A & P ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

.....*A P*.....

Electrical, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Contractors

PEDRO ARANA
President

338 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07307
Business Permit
State License No. 4692-A

Tel. 659-1263 *Sam Koralja, Prop.*

Sam's Jewelers
335 PALISADE AVENUE
Jersey City, NJ

TRAFFIC, ENGRAVED & CUSTOM SIGNS
CUSTOM BANNERS & FLAGS
DECALS. MAGNETIC SIGNS
DIRECTORY PRODUCTS

(201) 656-1991
FAX (201) 656-4764

Craft Industries
Robert Iezzi

339 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307

201-659-2668 **Fax 201-659-9274**

Signs & Graphics

DIVISION OF ERIC'S INC.
DESIGNING, FABRICATING & INSTALLING
OF ALL KIND OF SIGNS

ERIC MORTIMER
Administrator

330 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City NJ 07307

JERSEY CITY'S FAMILY FUN CENTER

401 PALISADE AVENUE
201-656-5994

HAVE YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH US!!!

"WE'VE GOT IT ALL"

BOTANICA **CONSULTAS**

NUESTRA SENORA DEL LORETO
333 PALISADE AVENUE
JERSEY CITY
796-2060

JOYERIA **ARTICULOS PARA FIESTAS**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN THE RNA NEWSLETTER. PLEASE MAIL (2) OF YOUR BUSINESS CARDS AND A CHECK (EITHER $10/ONE MONTH OR $60/NINE MONTHS) TO RNA, 232 OGDEN AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, NJ 07307

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

COME TO OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th at 7:15 PM

RNA FALL FEST
& FLEA MARKET
Saturday, October 1st
Riverview-Fisk Park

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JERSEY CITY, N.J.
07302
PERMIT # 153
CAR.-RT. PRESORT

CR-18
BRUNETTI, V.
232 OGDEN AVE.
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07307

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Greg Brickey
Vice-chairperson

Kathy Packard
Secretary

Jack Rea
Treasurer

Carol Rebelowski
Sgt. at Arms

Theodore Conrad
Historical Advisor

COMMITTEES:

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

PARKS

FLEA MARKET

NEWSLETTER

Join RNA & Get Involved

Keeping a neighborhood association functioning requires the active participation of its members. Annual membership dues are $5 per person - which entitles you to nine issues of our newsletter, and voting priviledges in RNA, if you live within the boundries. Bring your dues to the next meeting, or make your check payable to RNA and mail it to 232 Ogden Avenue. RNA appreciates your support!

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

We are always soliciting material for the RNA newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers want to discuss. Would you like to complain about or praise something? How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe to share with us. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

Drop off contributions at 170 Ogden Ave. or in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Ave. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER." The next deadline is September 23, 1994.